

Health & Safety in St.Fintan's NS

Here's a reminder of some very important housekeeping rules:

- In line with our Healthy Eating Policy, parents are asked not to give in cakes or sweets for children's birthdays. In the past we have had scenarios where children are getting cake 3 or more days a week in class! This is not appropriate on health grounds and also for children with allergies etc., it isn't fair. So, going forward, as per the Healthy Eating Policy and whilst we appreciate the good intentions, birthday cakes and sweet treats from parents cannot be distributed to children and they will be sent home. Thanks for your understanding with this.
- Following on from the above, note also that St.Fintan's NS is a nut free zone. This is to protect children with allergies. Please respect this fact by not giving your child any nut containing products in their lunches. Check ingredients to be sure as necessary.
- The school does not have facilities for minding children who can't go to yard due to a cold/sniffle/upset tummy. The yard is part of the school day so if parents consider that children are still too sick for yard, unfortunately they are too sick for school. Pupils only stay in in rare circumstances, agreed in consultation with the school.
- Reminder: the school carpark is for staff use only from 8am - 4pm daily, Mon-Fri.
- Again re.cars, to clarify any confusion for parents note that for child protection and safety reasons, staff do not give lifts to pupils to any school events offsite.
- Children may not climb on the raised flower beds or the ramp leading up to the pre-fab entrance. This is for safety reasons.
- Finally, thank you to the vast, vast majority of parents who behave in an exemplary manner at all times around school drop-off and pick-up. Unfortunately, we have had reports recently from some local residents upset with how parents are parking and blocking access to houses, damaging flower beds and damaging trees for example. This is obviously not acceptable. We ask that parents and pupils respect our local area and our local residents at all times. As we say in school, treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.



Feedback from Term 1 Consultation on Curriculum & School Development Plan:

Here are the results of our curricular consultation from Term 1. There were 121 responses.

- *Does your child like handwriting?* Yes: 80% No: 20%
- *Are you happy with your child's standard of handwriting?* Yes: 67% No: 33%
- *This year, were the teachers to do some focused work on improving handwriting, would you agree with this?* Yes: 94% No: 6%

So, following on from the above, our teachers will undertake tailored and appropriate additional work on handwriting this term and next with all classes.

The second short survey was to help us plan for the next phase of positive school developments. There were 108 responses.

- *Do you agree that upgrading the inside of the school, ceiling and roof are priorities?* Yes: 91% No: 9%
- *Do you agree that upgrading the school grounds and play area are also priorities?* Yes: 86% No: 14%
- *Do you agree that the full school grounds, play area and building should be fully compliant with all child protection, health and safety requirements?* Yes: 100%

The Board of Management has now commissioned architectural drawings for the enhancement of our school building over the coming years. These will be communicated to the school community in due course. Having gone through the Department of Education's Emergency Works process, this week all roof leaks are being fixed, part funded by the Department of Education and the Board of Management. Thanks to all who gave feedback in the surveys.



Peace Proms RDS Performance is Nearly Here! Our School choir will perform in the RDS Peace Proms Concert on Saturday February 2nd 2019. Parents of relevant pupils are being provided with details of how to book tickets etc.

Finners are Winners!

Reminder: The closing date for our September 2019 junior infants Intake is 31st January 2019.



Well done to all our pupils in last month's Great St.Fintan's NS Christmas Shows!

Although it now seems ages ago, it's just a few weeks since we held all our super festive St.Fintan's celebrations! We had 4 hours of carol singing, a show from junior infants and 1st class and of course, the big 3rd—6th class production of Super Star in the parish church. Well done all - here are a few pics of the happy memories!



Above: A selection of photos from our Christmas events in December.

